

Green Roofs

Green roofs, also called vegetated roofs or eco-roofs, are plants in a special soil mix installed on a rooftop over a waterproof membrane.

There are 2 kinds of green roofs:

Intensive green roofs with lightweight soil mix of 8 or more inches feature larger plants and are often park-like with paths and seating.

Extensive green roofs have only 2 to 6 inches of soil mix and have lower growing, drought-tolerant plantings.

$\times 0.7_{sf}$
green factor



Seattle's City Hall—all of Seattle's new civic buildings must be LEED certified and have become innovative examples of green practices.



Far Left: Green roof adjacent to the WaMu Center offers great views of downtown Seattle.

(photo by by Brice Maryman)

Left: Planting the Justice Center's green roof.

Below: Ballard Library's unique roof.



Green Roofs can:

- 🌱 extend the life of roofing materials by blocking ultraviolet radiation and moderating temperature extremes
- 🌱 slow stormwater runoff
- 🌱 reduce building heating and cooling costs
- 🌱 cool and clean the air
- 🌱 provide habitat and attractive greenery in urban environments